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**Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary
Legal Affairs Division**

**Solicitation of Comments on the Development of Antidegradation Implementation
Procedures
(0909Pot1)**

The Department of Environmental Quality is requesting public comment regarding the development of Antidegradation Implementation Procedures, which may be incorporated into the Water Quality Management Plan. Federal regulations (40 CFR 131.12(a)(1)-(3)) require all states, tribes, and territories of the United States to have an antidegradation policy in their water quality standards consistent with the Federal policy and to identify the methods for implementing the policy. Louisiana's antidegradation policy and antidegradation implementation plan are contained in LAC 33:IX.1109.A and 1119. The antidegradation policy and implementation plan provide the statutory basis for the protection of state waters from activities that would cause degradation of the water quality and impairment of the existing and designated uses.

The implementation plan for the antidegradation policy (LAC 33:IX.1119) specifies that the procedures and methods for implementation are described in several documents of the Water Quality Management Plan, specifically the Water Quality Standards, the Integrated Report and the Continuing Planning Process (CPP). LDEQ has developed a partial draft of specific procedures to support the antidegradation policy and implementation plan. The structure and components of this document are based on water programs specifically mentioned in LAC 33:IX.1119. Public participation is desired for the continued development of the antidegradation implementation procedures. The draft document is available for download from LDEQ's website, <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/69/Default.aspx>.

All interested persons are encouraged to submit written comments. Comments are due no later than 4:30 p.m., October 23, 2009, and should be submitted to Kimberly Corts, Office of Environmental Assessment, Water Quality Assessment Division, Box 4314, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314.

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